

Message Text

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40-16

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OES-03 COME-00 INT-05 EB-07 FEAE-00 TRSE-00

SAB-01 SCCT-01 OMB-01 SAM-01 AID-05 /100 W

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R 252100Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7853

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 07566

C O R R E C T E D COPY (FOR PENULTIMATE LINE PARA #1 (1967 VICE 1947)

)

GENEVA FOR MEPC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, FR

SUBJECT: QUAI COMMENTS ON MIDDLE EAST

1. DURING LUNCHEON CONVERSATION MARCH 25, QUAI ISRAEL-JORDAN DESK OFFICER DE LA BELLEISSUE OBSERVED THAT THE FAILURE OF THE SECRETARY'S LATEST MISSION WAS HARMFUL TO THE U.S., TO U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS AND ABOVE ALL, TO PEACE. HE SAID THE QUAI BELIEVES THAT THE ISRAELIS
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ARE ONCE AGAIN LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RUPTURE IN

NEGOTIATIONS. IT IS DIFFICULT TO JUDGE, HE SAID, WHETHER RABIN WAS UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO CONCEDE THE SINAI PASSES AND OIL FIELDS IN RETURN FOR WHAT THE FRENCH CONSIDER TO BE "REASONABLE" EGYPTIAN ASSURANCES OF PEACEFUL INTENT. WHATEVER THE CAUSE, BELLEISSUE SAID, THE ISRAELIS STILL SEEM TO BE OPERATING ON THE MISTAKEN ASSUMPTION THAT THEY CAN SPLIT THE ARABS. AS A RESULT, HE CONTINUED, THEY MAY LOSE EVERYTHING INSTEAD OF SIMPLY THE LAND THEY OCCUPIED IN 1967 WHICH THEY WILL HAVE TO GIVE UP ANYWAY.

2. BELLEISSUE ASSUMED THAT GENEVA WOULD BE THE NEXT STEP, AN INFINITELY MORE DIFFICULT ONE FOR ISRAEL AND THE U.S. BECAUSE OF THE BREAKDOWN IN ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATIONS. HE SUPPOSED THAT THE PLO AS SUCH WOULD NOT BE PRESENT AT THE OPENING IN GENEVA BUT SUGGESTED THAT THE RECENT SYRIAN-PLO DECISION TO ESTABLISH A JOINT COMMAND MIGHT RESULT IN SOME PLO MEMBERS' BEING THERE AS PART OF THE SYRIAN DELEGATION.

3. COMMENTING ON THE VINOGRADOV VISIT TO AMMAN, BELLEISSUE SAID THE FRENCH UNDERSTAND THAT THE SOVIETS' MAIN PURPOSE WAS TO URGE JORDAN TO GO TO GENEVA, ARGUING THAT JORDAN (A) HAD BEEN THERE FOR THE FIRST ROUND, (B) RULED MORE PALESTINIANS THAN ANYONE ELSE AND (C) HAS A LONG FRONTIER WITH ISRAEL. HUSSEIN REPORTEDLY WAS NONCOMMITAL.

4. COMMENT: AMONG QUAI MIDEAST SPECIALISTS BELLEISSUE IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE MOST SYMPATHETIC TO ISRAEL.
RUSH

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